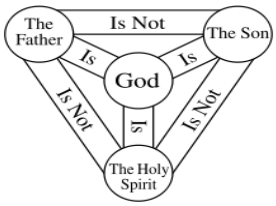
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God. He is not an "it." He is not a divine influence. He is not a fleecy white cloud. He is not a ghost or a concept. He is a person possessing a will, intellect and emotions. He is God -- with all the attributes of deity. He is the third person of the Trinity -- co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. There is only one God, but He manifests Himself in three persons, whom we call the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity and undoubtedly the least understood member of the Godhead.

Christians can easily identify with God the Father (Jehovah or Yahweh) and his Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit, however, without a body and a personal name, seems distant to many, yet he dwells inside every true believer and is a constant companion in the walk of faith.

The Trinity is considered to be a mystery of Christian faith, According to this doctrine, there is only one God in three persons. Each person is God, whole and entire. They are distinct from one another in their relations of origin, "it is the Father who generates, the Son who is begotten, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds". While distinct in their relations with one another, they are one in all else. The whole work of creation and grace is a single operation common to all three divine persons, who at the same time operate according to their unique properties, so that all things are from the Father, through the Son and in the Holy Spirit, The three persons are co-equal, co-eternal and consubstantial.



The "Shield of the Trinity" diagram of traditional Christian symbolism.

The Christian doctrine of the **Trinity** defines God as three divine persons the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit; "one God in three persons".

The Holy Spirit first appears in the second verse of the Bible, in the account of creation:
Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (Genesis 1:2, NIV).

Family Tree:

First Person of the Trinity - God the Father
Second Person of the Trinity - Jesus Christ
Third Person of the Trinity - The Holy Spirit

A member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit had no beginning and has no end. With the Father and Son, he existed before creation. The Spirit dwells in heaven but also on Earth in the heart of every believer

The Holy Spirit inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. As you read the Bible, He reveals its truth to you. It is a living Book inspired by the Spirit, and only Christians who are filled with the Spirit can understand the true meaning of God's Word.

One cannot live a holy life apart from the help of the Holy Spirit for, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."

It is impossible to even know Christ apart from the regenerating ministry of the Spirit. It was Jesus of Nazareth, Himself, who said, "Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." It is

impossible for you to become a Christian, to understand the Bible and other spiritual truths, to pray, to live a holy life, to witness or do anything for the Lord Jesus apart from the person of the Holy Spirit of God.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with Christ. The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ. Therefore, if I am filled with the Spirit, I am abiding in Christ. I am walking in the light as He is the light, and the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse and keep on cleansing me from all unrighteousness.

This amazing fact that Christ lives in you and expresses His love through you is one of the most important truths in the Word of God. The standards of the Christian life are so high and so impossible to achieve, according to the Word of God, that only one person has been able to succeed. That person is Jesus Christ. Now, through His indwelling presence, He wants to enable all who place their trust in Him to live this same supernatural life.

It is very important to recognize the importance of the balance between the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The Word of God is closed to our understanding and has little meaning to us apart from the illumination given by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is hindered in speaking clear and life changing truth apart from the Word of God.

When the emphasis on the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God is in proper balance in your life, the result is a life of power and great fruitfulness in which our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is wonderfully honored and glorified. As you continue then to allow the Holy Spirit to control and empower you, and as you meditate upon the Word of God, hiding it in your heart, your life expresses more and more the beauty of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit which Paul lists in Galatians 5:22, 23. These attributes of our Lord Jesus Himself, plus fruitful witnessing, indicate that the Lord is actually living His life in and through you!

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. He is fully God. He is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, has a will, and can speak. He is alive. He is a person. He is not particularly visible in the Bible because His ministry is to bear witness of Jesus (John 15:26).

For the majority of Christians, the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and is Almighty God. The Holy Spirit is understood to be one of the three *persons* of the Trinity. As such he is personal and also fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and Son of God. He is different from the Father and the Son in that he *proceeds* from the Father (or from the Father and the Son). The Triune God is thus manifested as three *Persons* (Greek *hypostases*), in One Divine Being (Greek: Ousia), called the Godhead, the Divine Essence of God.

In the New Testament, by the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, while maintaining her virginity. The Holy Spirit descended over Jesus in a corporal way, as a dove, at the time of his baptism, and a voice from Heaven was heard: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." He is the Sanctifier of souls, the Helper, Comforter, the Giver of graces, he who leads souls to the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit is inspiring believers and allowing for them to interpret all the sacred scripture and leads prophets, both in Old Testament and New Testament. Christians receive the Fruits of the Holy Spirit by means of his mercy and grace.

His Names	His Attributes	Symbols of	Sins Against	Power in Christ's Life
God Acts 5:3-4	Eternal Heb. 9:14	Dove Matt. 3:16	Blasphemy Matt. 12:31	Conceived of Matt. 1:18,20
Lord 2 Cor. 3:18	Omnipotent Luke 1:35	Wind Acts 2:1-4	Resist (Unbelief) Acts 7:51	Baptism Matt. 3:16
Spirit 1 Cor. 2:10	Omnipresent Psalm 139:7-10	Fire Acts 2:3	Insult Heb. 10:29	Led by Luke 4:1
Spirit of God 1 Cor. 3:16	Will 1 Cor. 12:11	*****	Lied to Acts 5:3	Filled with Power Luke 4:14,18
Spirit of Truth John 15:26	Loves Rom. 15:30	*****	Grieved Eph. 4:30	Witness of Jesus John 15:26
Eternal Spirit Heb. 9:14	Speaks Acts 8:29; 13:2	*****	Quench 1 Thess. 5:19	Raised Jesus Rom. 8:11

The Works of the Holy Spirit

Access to God - Eph. 2:18	Inspires prayer - Eph. 6:18; Jude 20
Anoints for Service - Luke 4:18	Intercedes -Rom. 8:26
Assures - Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:6	Interprets Scripture - 1 Cor. 2:1,14; Eph. 1:17
Authors Scripture - 2 Pet. 1:20-21	Leads - Rom. 8:14
Baptizes - John 1:23-34; 1 Cor. 12:13-14	Liberates - Rom. 8:2
Believers Born of - John 3:3-6	Molds Character - Gal. 5:22-23
Calls and Commissions - Acts 13:24; 20:28	Produces fruit - Gal. 5:22-23
Cleanses - 1 Thess. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:2	Empowers Believers - Luke 24:49
Convicts of sin - John 16:9,14	Raises from the dead - Rom. 8:11
Creates - Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4	Regenerates - Titus 3:5

Empowers - 1 Thess. 1:5	Sanctifies - Rom. 15:16
Fills - Acts 2:4; 4:29-31; 5:18-20	Seals - Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30
Gives gifts - 1 Cor. 12:8-11	Strengthens - Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 1 Cor. 2:4
Glorifies Christ - John 16:14	Teaches - John 14:26
Guides in truth - John 16:13	Testifies of Jesus - John 15:26
Helps our weakness - Rom. 8:26	Victory over flesh - Rom. 8:2-4; Gal. 4:6
Indwells believers - Rom. 8:9-14; Gal. 4:6	Worship helper - Phil. 3:3

To comprehend how God's Spirit can transform us, we must understand what that spirit is. We begin by considering what God is. Jesus explained that "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The Scriptures portray the Spirit of God as the manifestation of His divine power within His creation, especially in His called and converted people—the saints. Through the "power of the Highest He can instill attributes of His divine nature and character in us. These divine, spiritual attributes transform our weak human nature to the extent that we become "partakers of the divine nature. By positive choice we then have to be willing to walk obediently in newness of life—to use God's Spirit to overcome our own weak, fleshly nature.

Jesus describes God's Spirit as "the Spirit of truth" and "the Helper" that "proceeds from the Father" In other words, God actively and directly empowers us through His Spirit. It is His mighty power acting within in us, assisting us in living righteously.

John 15:26

The Holy Spirit Exhibits the Attributes of God

Attribute	God	Holy Spirit
Who gives eternal life?	Proverbs 19:23	Ezekiel 37:14, John 6:63, Romans 8:2, 8:6, 11, 13, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Galatians 6:8
Who gives grace?	Psalms 84:11	Zechariah 12:10, Hebrews 10:29
Who gives power and authority to man?	Psalm 68:35	Micah 3:8, Acts 1:8, 20:28 Romans 15:19, 1 Corinthians 2:4, Ephesians 3:16, 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:5
Who has authority and power?	1 Chronicles 29:11	Micah 3:8, Luke 1:35, 4:14, Romans 15:13, 19, Ephesians 3:16
Who has glory?	Isaiah 40:5	2 Corinthians 3:8
Who is eternal?	Genesis 21:33	John 14:16, Hebrews 9:14
Who is Holy?	1 Samuel 2:2	Romans 1:4
Who is omnipresent	Jeremiah 23:24	Psalms 139:7
Who is omniscient?	1 John 3:20	1 Corinthians 2:10, 11
Who is our Father?	Isaiah 63:16	Matthew 10:20
Who is our Savior?	Isaiah 43:11, 45:21, Psalm 62:2, 6, Hosea 13:4	Romans 8:11-15, Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30
Who is the Creator?	Genesis 1:31, Isaiah 44:24, Nehemiah 9:6, Mark 13:19, Revelation 4:11	Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4, Psalms 104:30
Who is the truth?	Psalm 31:5, Isaiah 65:16	John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13, 1 John 5:7
Who is the way or path?	Psalms 16:11	Judges 13:25, 1 Samuel 11:6, 16:13, Isaiah 63:14, Psalms 143:10, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16, 2 Peter 1:21
Who resurrected Jesus?	Acts 4:10	Romans 8:11
Who resurrects the dead?	Acts 26:8	Romans 8:11
Who sent the prophets?	Jeremiah 7:25	Numbers 11:25, 26, 29, 24:2, 1 Samuel 10:6, 10, 19:20, 23, Joel 2:28, Zechariah 7:12, Matthew 22:43, John 16:13, Acts 2:17, 11:28, 19:6, Ephesians 3:5, 1 Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 9:8, 1 Peter 1:11, 2 Peter 1:21
Whom are we to	Exodus 34:14	Philippians 3:3

The Holy Spirit Exhibits the Attributes of God

Attribute	God	Holy Spirit
worship?		

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations." (*Isaiah 42:1*)

"Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit." (*Isaiah 48:16*)

"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him." (*Acts 10:38*)

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Abides in our presence	Haggai 2:5, John 14:17
Admonishes us	Nehemiah 9:30
Allows men to judge righteously	Numbers 11:17, Judges 3:10, Micah 3:8
Allows us to enter the kingdom of God	John 3:5
Baptizes believers	Luke 3:16, John 1:33, Acts 1:5, 11:16, 1 Corinthians 12:13
Bears our burdens	Numbers 11:17
Bears witness to our conscience	Romans 9:1, Hebrews 10:15, 1 John 5:7, 8
Believers are born of	John 3:5, 6, 8, Galatians 4:29
Believers pray in	Ephesians 6:18, Jude 1:20
Believers walk by	Galatians 5:25
Believers worship in	Philippians 3:3
Blasphemy against is the only capital crime	Matthew 12:32, Luke 12:10
Brings us into obedience	Ezekiel 36:27
Can be insulted	Hebrews 10:29

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Can be lied to	Acts 5:3
Can be put to the test	Acts 5:9
Can be resisted by hardened hearts	Acts 7:51, 1 Thessalonians 5:19
Can be tasted by non-believers	Hebrews 6:4
Can exist in bodily form	Luke 3:22, John 1:32
Casts out demons	Matthew 12:28
Causes us to fear and revere God	Isaiah 11:2
Causes us to follow God's chosen leaders	1 Chronicles 12:18
Changes our hearts	Romans 2:29
Changes us	1 Samuel 10:6
Comforts believers	Acts 9:31
Confesses Jesus	1 John 3:24
Confirms is we are children of God	Romans 8:16, 1 John 3:24, 4:13
Confirms the deity of Jesus	1 Corinthians 12:4
Convicts non-believers of the truth of the Gospel	1 Corinthians 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:5
Counsels us	Isaiah 11:2
Creator	Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4, Psalms 104:30
Determines what is good	Acts 15:28
Directed Jesus	Mark 1:12, 3:29
Directs our paths	Judges 11:29, Luke 2:27, Acts 13:4, Romans 8:4, 13
Directs our thoughts	Romans 8:5
Eternal	John 14:16, Hebrews 9:14

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Father	Matthew 10:20
Father of Jesus	Matthew 1:18, 20, Luke 1:35
Fills believers	Luke 1:15, 41, 2:25, Acts 4:8, 4:31, 6:3, 6:5, 7:55, 9:17, 13:9, 52, Ephesians 5:18
Forbids believers	Acts 16:6, 7, 21:4
Frees believers from the law	Galatians 5:18
Gathers God's people together	Isaiah 34:16
Gave joy to Jesus	Luke 10:21
Gave power to Jesus	Luke 4:14
Gave the law to us	Zechariah 7:12
Given as a gift to believers	Acts 2:38, 10:45, Romans 5:5
Given by God	Isaiah 48:16, 63:11, Acts 5:32, 15:8, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 2 Corinthians 1:22, 3:3, 5:5 Galatians 3:5, 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:8, 1 John 3:24
Given by Jesus	Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, John 3:34, John 7:39, 15:26, 16:7, 20:22
Given by the Father	John 14:26, Acts 2:33
Given to those who ask through prayer	Luke 11:13, Acts 8:15
Gives authority to believers	Acts 20:28
Gives courage to us	Micah 3:8
Gives faith to believers	Acts 11:24, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Galatians 5:22
Gives fellowship to believers	2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 2:1
Gives grace to believers	Zechariah 12:10, Hebrews 10:29
Gives hope to believers	Romans 15:13
Gives joy to believers	Acts 13:52, Romans 14:17, Galatians 5:22, 1 Thessalonians 1:6
Gives kindness to believers	Galatians 5:22

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Gives knowledge to us	Exodus 31:3, 35:31, Isaiah 11:2, Acts 6:3, 10, 1 Corinthians 12:8
Gives leadership abilities to men	Judges 6:34
Gives life (eternal) to believers	Ezekiel 37:14, John 6:63, Romans 8:2, 8:6, 11, 13, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Galatians 6:8
Gives love to believers	Romans 15:30, Galatians 5:22
Gives patience to believers	Galatians 5:22
Gives peace to believers	Isaiah 32:15, Romans 8:6, 14:17, Galatians 5:22
Gives power to believers	Micah 3:8, Acts 1:8, Romans 15:19, 1 Corinthians 2:4, Ephesians 3:16, 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:5
Gives rest to us	Isaiah 63:14
Gives spiritual gifts	Acts 2:4, 19:6, Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7, 8, 9, 11, Galatians 5:22, Hebrews 2:4
Gives strength to us	Judges 11:29, 14:6, 19, 15:14, Isaiah 11:2, Ephesians 3:16
Gives understanding to us	Exodus 31:3, 35:31, Isaiah 11:2, Acts 6:3, 10
Gives unity to believers	Ephesians 4:3
Gives wisdom to us	Exodus 31:3, 35:31, Isaiah 11:2, Acts 6:3, 10, 1 Corinthians 12:8
Gospel preached through	1 Peter 1:12
Grieved by rebellion	Isaiah 63:10, Ephesians 4:30
Guides our words	Psalms 106:33, Luke 12:12
Guides us	1 Kings 18:12, John 16:13, Galatians 5:16, 17, 25
Has a mind	Romans 8:27
Has a will	1 Corinthians 12:11
Indwells believers	Matthew 22:43, John 3:6, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 2:22, 2 Timothy 1:14, James 4:5
Indwelt Jesus	Matthew 3:16, Matthew 12:18, Mark 1:10, John 1:32,Acts 10:38
Instructs and teaches us	Nehemiah 9:20, Psalms 143:10

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Intercedes for believers through prayer	Romans 8:26, 27
Is glory	2 Corinthians 3:8
Is God	Exodus 31:3, 35:31, Numbers 24:2,Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14 1 Samuel 10:6, 10, 11:6, 16:13, 14, 19:20, 23, 23:2, 1 Kings 18:12, 22:24, 2 Kings 2:16, 2 Chronicles 15:1, 18:23, 20:14, 24:20, Isaiah 11:2, 40:13, 61:1, 63:14, Ezekiel 11:5, 24, 37:1, Micah 2:7, 3:8, Matthew 3:16, 12:28, Luke 4:18, Acts 5: 3-4, 9, 8:39, 10:38Romans 8:9, 14, 1 Corinthians 2:11, 14, 3:16, 6:11, 7:40, 12:3, 2 Corinthians 3:3, 8, Ephesians 4:30, Philippians 3:3, 1 John 4:2
Is holy	Romans 1:4
Is Jesus/Christ	Acts 16:7, Romans 1:4, 8:9, 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18, Galatians 4:6, Philippians 1:19, 1 Peter 1:11
Is life	Romans 8:2
Is not directed or counseled	Isaiah 40:13
Is our ally	Isaiah 30:1
Is power	Micah 3:8, Luke 1:35, 4:14, Romans 15:13, 19, Ephesians 3:16
Is the Father	Matthew 10:20
Is the love of God	Romans 5:5
Is the presence of God	Psalm 51:11
Is the word of God	Ephesians 6:17
Is truth	John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13, 1 John 5:7
Justifies believers	1 Corinthians 6:11
Lead Jesus	Luke 4:1
Leads believers	Judges 13:25, 1 Samuel 11:6, 16:13, Isaiah 63:14, Psalms 143:10, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16, 2 Peter 1:21
Lives in believers	John 14:17, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, 7:40, 2 Corinthians 1:22, 3:3
Makes us "sons/children of God"	Romans 8:14, 16
Makes us righteous	Romans 14:17
Manifested in believers	1 Corinthians 12:7

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Non-believers are without	Jude 1:19
Not directed our counseled	Isaiah 40:13
Not understood by unbelievers	1 Corinthians 2:14
Omnipresent	Psalms 139:7
Omniscient	1 Corinthians 2:10, 11
Opposes the flesh	Galatians 5:17
Part of the covenant	Isaiah 59:21
Physically transports believers	2 Kings 2:16, Ezekiel 3:12, Ezekiel 3:24, Ezekiel 8:3, Ezekiel 11:1, 24, Ezekiel 37:1, Ezekiel 43:5, Acts 8:39, Revelation 17:3, 21:10
Poured out from heaven	Isaiah 32:15, 44:3, Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:28, 29, Zechariah 12:10, Acts 10:44-45, 11:15, Romans 5:5
Promised to believers	Haggai 2:5, Acts 2:33, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Galatians 3:14, Ephesians 1:13
Protects us from evil spirits	1 Samuel 16:14
Provides access to the Father	Ephesians 2:18
Received by believers	Acts 10:47
Received by faith	Galatians 3:2, 14, 5:5
Regenerates and renews believers	Titus 3:5
Represents the new covenant	2 Corinthians 3:6
Resurrected Jesus	Romans 8:11
Resurrects believers	Romans 8:11
Reveals prophecy	Numbers 11:25, 26, 29, 24:2, 1 Samuel 10:6, 10, 19:20, 23, Joel 2:28, Zechariah 7:12, Matthew 22:43, John 16:13, Acts 2:17, 11:28, 19:6, Ephesians 3:5, 1 Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 9:8, 1 Peter 1:11, 2 Peter 1:21, Revelation 1:10, 2:11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 4:2, 14:13
Reveals visions	Numbers 24:2, Ezekiel 8:3, 11:24, Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17, 7:55, Revelation 4:2

The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

Characteristic	Verses
Sanctifies believers	Galatians 3:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Peter 1:2
Sanctifies our works	Romans 15:16
Savior/Redeemer	Romans 8:11-15, Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30
Seals believers	2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30
Sent as a pledge	2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5
Service to God is through	Romans 7:6
Sets us free	Romans 8:2, 2 Corinthians 3:17
Speaks the word of God	2 Chronicles 24:14, 20, Ezekiel 11:5, Luke 3:22, Hebrews 3:7
Speaks to us	2 Samuel 23:2, 1 Kings 22:24, 2 Chronicles 18:23, Luke 2:26, Acts 8:29, 10:19, 11:12, 13:2, 20:23, 21:11, Colossians 1:8, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 14:13, 22:17
Stirs us into action	Judges 13:25,1 Samuel 11:6
Strives with man	Genesis 6:3
Teaches the will of God	Psalms 143:10, Isaiah 30:1
Teaches us	Luke 12:12, John 14:26, John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 13
Vindicated Jesus	1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 9:14
Witness of Jesus' death and resurrection	Acts 5:32

Conclusion

The Bible states quite emphatically that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is not just God's spiritual manifestation, since He also has the attributes of personhood. Together with God the Father and God the Son, the Holy Spirit makes up the Trinity.

I. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

Scripture speaks repeatedly of the Holy Spirit, known also as the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Scripture indicates that the Holy Spirit is of the same essence as the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is ascribed with the attributes of God, is equated with God and does work that only God does.

A. Attributes of God

1. Holiness: In more than 90 places, the Bible calls the Spirit of God "the Holy Spirit." Holiness is a basic characteristic of the Spirit. The Spirit is so holy that blasphemy against the Spirit cannot be forgiven, although blasphemy against Jesus could be (Matt. 12:32). Insulting the Spirit is just as sinful as trampling the Son of God under foot (Heb. 10:29). This indicates that the Spirit is inherently holy, holy in essence, rather than having an assigned or secondary holiness such as the temple had.

The Spirit also has the infinite attributes of God: unlimited in time, space, power and knowledge.

2. Eternality: The Holy Spirit, the Counselor, will be with us "forever" (John 14:16). The Spirit is "eternal" (Heb. 9:14).

3. Omnipresence: David, praising God's greatness, asked, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there" (Ps. 139:7-8). God's Spirit, which David uses as a synonym for the presence of God himself, is in heaven and in *sheol* (v. 8), in the east and in the west (v. 9).

God's Spirit can be said to be poured out on someone, to fill a person, or to descend — yet without implying that the Spirit has moved away from or vacated some other place. Thomas Oden observes that "such statements are grounded in the premises of omnipresence and eternality — attributes ascribed properly only to God" (*Life in the Spirit,* p. 18).

4. Omnipotence: The works that God does, such as creation, are also ascribed to the Holy Spirit (Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30). Miracles of Jesus Christ were done "by the Spirit" (Matt. 12:28). In Paul's ministry, the work that "Christ has accomplished" was done "through the power of the Spirit" (Rom. 15:18-19).

5. Omniscience: "The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God," Paul said (1 Cor. 2:10). The Spirit of God "knows the thoughts of God" (v. 11). The Spirit therefore knows all things, and is able to teach all things (John 14:26).

Holiness, eternality, omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience are attributes of God's essence, that is, characteristic of the nature of divine existence. The Holy Spirit has the basic attributes of God.

B. Equated with God

1. Triadic formulas: Several passages discuss the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as equals. In a discussion of spiritual gifts, Paul puts the Spirit, the Lord, and God in grammatically parallel constructions (1 Cor. 12:4-6). Paul closes a letter with a three-part prayer: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Cor. 13:14). Peter begins a letter with this three-part formula: "who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood" (1 Peter 1:2).

Of course, the triadic formulas used in these and other scriptures do not prove equality (for example, Eph. 4:5 puts unequal elements in parallel construction), but they do suggest it. The baptismal formula has an even stronger implication of unity — "in the name [singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). The Father, Son, and Spirit share a common name, indicating common essence and equality. This verse indicates both plurality and unity. Three names are given, but all three share one name.

2. Word interchanges. Acts 5:3 says that Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit; verse 4 says that Ananias lied to God. This indicates that "the Holy Spirit" and "God" are interchangeable and thus that the Holy Spirit is God. Some people try to explain this by saying that Ananias lied to God only indirectly, simply because the Holy Spirit represented God. This interpretation might be grammatically possible, but it would imply the personality of the Holy Spirit as a divine representative, for one does not lie to an impersonal power. Moreover, Peter told Ananias that he lied not to humans, but to God. The force of the passage is that Ananias has lied not merely to God's representatives, but to God himself, and the Holy Spirit is God to whom Ananias lied.

Another word interchange can be seen in 1 Cor. 3:16 and 6:19. Christians are not only temples of God, they are also temples of the Holy Spirit; the two expressions mean the same thing. A temple, of course, is a habitation for a deity, not a habitation for an impersonal power. When Paul writes "temple of the Holy Spirit," he implies that the Holy Spirit is God.

Another type of verbal equation between God and the Holy Spirit is seen in Acts 13:2: "The Holy Spirit said, `Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Here, the Holy Spirit speaks on behalf of God, as God. In the same way, Heb. 3:7-11 tells us that the Holy Spirit says the Israelites "tested and tried me"; the Holy Spirit says that "I was angry.... They shall never enter my rest." The Holy Spirit is equated with the God of the Israelites. Heb. 10:15-17 also equates the Spirit and the Lord who makes the new covenant. The Spirit who inspired the prophets is God. This is the work of God the Holy Spirit, which leads us to our next section.

C. Divine work

1. Creating: The Holy Spirit does work that only God can do, such as creating (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30) and expelling demons (Matt. 12:28).

2. Begetting: The Spirit begot the Son of God (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35), and the full divinity of the Son (Col. 1:19) implies the full divinity of the Begetter.

The Spirit begets believers, too — they are born of God (John 1:12) and equally born of the Spirit (John 3:5). "The Spirit gives [eternal] life" (John 6:63). The Spirit is the power by which we will be resurrected (Rom. 8:11).

3. Indwelling: The Holy Spirit is the way in which God lives in his children (Eph. 2:22; 1 John 3:24; 4:13). The Holy Spirit "lives" in us (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16) — and because the Spirit lives in us, we are able to say that God lives in us. We can say that God lives in us only because the Holy Spirit is in some way God. The Spirit is not a representative or a power that lives in us — God himself lives in us. Geoffrey Bromiley gives a concise conclusion: "to have dealings with the Spirit, no less than with the Father and the Son, is to have dealings with God" ("The New Holy Spirit," in *The New Life,* edited by Millard Erickson, p. 23).

4. Sanctifying: The Holy Spirit makes people holy (Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 1:2). The Spirit enables people to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5). We are saved "through the sanctifying work of the Spirit" (2 Thess. 2:13).

In all these things, the works of the Spirit are the works of God. Whatever the Spirit says or does, God is saying or doing; the Spirit is fully representative of God.

II. Personality of the Holy Spirit

Scripture describes the Holy Spirit as having personal characteristics: The Spirit has mind and will, speaks and can be spoken to, and acts and intercedes for us. All these indicate personality in the theological sense: The Holy Spirit is a Person or Hypostasis in the same sense that the Father and Son are. Our relationship with God, which is accomplished by the Holy Spirit, is a personal relationship.

A. Life and intelligence

1. Life: The Holy Spirit "lives" (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16).

2. Intelligence: The Spirit "knows" (1 Cor. 2:11). Rom. 8:27 refers to "the mind of the Spirit." This mind is able to make judgments — a decision "seemed good" to the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28). These verses imply a distinct intelligence.

3. Will: 1 Cor. 12:11 says that the Spirit "determines" decisions, showing that the Spirit has a will. The Greek word means "he or it determines." Although the Greek word does not specify the subject of the verb, the most likely subject in the context is the Spirit. To find a different subject, one would have to backtrack through five verses and six mentions of the Spirit. But this grammatical leapfrogging is not necessary. Since we know from other verses that the Spirit has mind and knowledge and judgment, there is no reason to reject the conclusion in 1 Cor. 12:11 that the Spirit also has will.

B. Communication

1. Speaking: Numerous verses say that the Holy Spirit spoke (Acts 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 21:11; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:7; etc.). Oden observes that "the Spirit speaks in the first person as `I'; `It was I who sent them' (Acts 10:20).... `I have called them' (Acts 13:2). None but a person can say `I' " (*The Living God,*p. 200).

2. Interaction: The Spirit may be lied to (Acts 5:3), which indicates that the Spirit may be spoken to. The Spirit may be tested (Acts 5:9), insulted (Heb. 10:29) or blasphemed (Matt. 12:31), which implies personal status. Oden gathers additional evidence: "The apostolic testimony applied intensely personal analogies: guiding (Rom. 8:14), convicting (John 16:8), interceding (Rom. 8:26), calling (Acts 13:2), commissioning (Acts 20:28).... Only a person can be vexed (Isa. 63:10) or grieved (Eph. 4:30)" (*Life in the Spirit,* p. 19).

3. Paraclete: Jesus called the Holy Spirit the *parakletos* — the Comforter, Advocate or Counselor. The Paraclete is active, teaching (John 14:26), testifying (15:26), convicting (16:8), guiding (16:13) and making truth known (16:14).

Jesus used the masculine form of *parakletos;* he did not consider it necessary to make the word neuter or to use neuter pronouns. In John 16:14, masculine pronouns are used even after the neuter *pneuma* is mentioned. It would have been easy to switch to neuter pronouns, but John did not. In other places, neuter pronouns are used for the Spirit, in accordance with grammatical convention. Scripture is not finicky about the grammatical gender of the Spirit, and we need not be either.

C. Action

1. New life: The Holy Spirit regenerates us, giving us new life (John 3:5). The Spirit sanctifies us (1 Pet. 1:2) and leads us in that new life (Rom. 8:14). The Spirit gives various gifts to build the Church up (1 Cor. 12:7-11), and throughout the book of Acts, we see that the Spirit guides the Church.

2. Intercession: The most "personal" activity of the Holy Spirit is intercession: "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us.... The Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will" (Rom. 8:26-27). Intercession implies not only receiving communication, but also communicating further on. It implies an intelligence, a concern, and a formal role. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal power, but an intelligent and divine Helper who lives within us. God lives within us, and the Holy Spirit is God.

III. Worship

There are no scriptural examples of worshipping the Holy Spirit. Scripture talks about praying in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18), the fellowship of the Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14), and baptism in the name of the Spirit (Matt. 28:19). Although baptism, prayer and fellowship are involved in worship, none of these verses is a valid proof-text for worship of the Spirit.

As an opposite of worship, however, we note that the Spirit can be blasphemed (Matt. 12:31).

There are no scriptural examples of praying to the Holy Spirit. However, Scripture indicates that a human can talk to the Spirit (Acts 5:3). If this is done in reverence or request, it is, in effect, praying to the Spirit. If Christians are unable to articulate their desires and they want the Spirit to intercede for them (Rom. 8:26-27), they are praying, directly or indirectly, to the Holy Spirit. When we understand that the Holy Spirit has intelligence and fully represents God, we may ask the Spirit for help — never thinking that the Spirit is a separate being from God, but recognizing that the Spirit is the Hypostasis of God interceding for us.

Why then does Scripture say nothing about praying to the Spirit? Michael Green explains: "The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to himself. He is sent by the Father to glorify Jesus, to show Jesus' attractiveness, and not to take the centre of the stage" (*I Believe in the Holy Spirit,* p. 60). Or, as Geoffrey Bromiley puts it, "The Spirit is self-effacing" (p. 21).

Prayer or worship directed specifically to the Holy Spirit is not the scriptural norm, but we nonetheless worship the Spirit. When we worship God, we worship all aspects of God, including the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A fourth-century theologian explained it this way: "The Spirit is jointly worshipped in God, when God is worshipped in the Spirit" (Ambrose, *Of the Holy Spirit* III.X.82, quoted in Oden, *Life in the Spirit,* p. 16). Whatever we say to the Spirit we are saying to God, and whatever we say to God we are saying to the Spirit.

IV. Summary

Scripture indicates that the Holy Spirit has divine attributes and works, and is spoken of in the same way that the Father and Son are. The Holy Spirit is intelligent, and speaks and acts like a Person. This is part of the scriptural evidence that led early Christians to formulate the doctrine of the Trinity. Bromiley gives a summary:

> Three points that emerge from this survey of the New Testament data are: (1) The Holy Spirit is everywhere regarded as God; (2) He is God in distinction from the Father and the Son; (3) His deity does not infringe upon the divine unity. In other words, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead....

> The divine unity cannot be subjected to mathematical ideas of unity. The fourth century learned to speak of three hypostases or persons within the deity, not in the tritheistic sense of three centers of consciousness, but also not in the weaker sense of three economic manifestations. From Nicaea and Constantinople on, the creeds sought to do justice to the essential biblical data along these lines. (pp. 24-25)

Although Scripture does not directly say that "the Holy Spirit is God," or that God is triune, these conclusions are based on scriptural evidence. Based on biblical evidence, we teach that the Holy Spirit is God in the same way that the Father is God and the Son is God.

Bible Verses About The Holy Spirit

Bible Verses About The Holy Spirit from the King James Version (KJV)

John 14:26 - But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Ephesians 4:30 - And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, *(Read More...)*

Acts 1:5 - For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Corinthians 6:19 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1 Corinthians 2:13 - Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Acts 10:47 - Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Acts 2:1-47 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. *(Read More...)*

Acts 1:4 - And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [saith he], ye have heard of me.

John 8:24 - I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.

John 3:1-36 - There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: *(Read More...)*

Luke 11:13 - If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 4:1 - And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Luke 2:25 - And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

1 Peter 2:9 - But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Hebrews 6:18 - That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Mark 16:20 - And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Holy Spirit

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Acts 2:38

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

John 14:15-17

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 16:12-15

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

1 Corinthians 2:13

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

John 16:7-15

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. …

Isaiah 11:2

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Luke 4:1

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

John 8:32

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Matthew 3:11

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Acts 2:17-18

"'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Romans 5:3-5

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2 Corinthians 5:5

He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Acts 5:32

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Acts 4:29-31

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

John 15:26

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

Luke 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

Zechariah 4:6

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

John 20:21-23

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Isaiah 63:10

But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

1 Thessalonians 1:6

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ...

Acts 2:17

"'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Acts 2:1-47

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ...

Acts 1:4-5

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

John 16:7-8

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Numbers 11:26

Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

Nehemiah 9:20

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Acts 19:1-6

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ...

Matthew 10:20

For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Psalm 51:11

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

Galatians 4:6

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

2 Corinthians 3:3

And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

John 7:37-39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Luke 2:25

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Isaiah 43:16-19

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

1 Peter 1:11

Inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

Hebrews 9:14

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

2 Corinthians 3:6

Who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

1 Corinthians 12:1-12

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can

say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ...

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 2:2

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

John 7:38-39

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Genesis 6:3

Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

James 1:26-27

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Joel 2:23

"Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before.

Ezekiel 3:8

Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

Titus 3:5-6

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

John 16:13

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Psalm 104:30

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

Job 26:13

By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

Deuteronomy 11:26

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse:

The Activities of the Spirit

1. Creating

The Spirit of God was with Father and the Son at the creation of the Universe, in Genesis 1:2, "the *Spirit of God* was hovering over the face of the waters". Verse 26, God says, "*Let Us* make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;". We are in the image of God, we have the characteristics of God, we create, we love, we have anger and we become jealous. God modeled us after Himself (Genesis 9:6).

When Adam and Eve fell, all mankind fell, though we were made in God's image, our nature had become fallen. Darkness came upon all the descendents of humanity, God however promised the eventual redemption of humanity through the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15-17), the Messiah.

The fallen nature of humanity is demonstrated before and after the flood, before the flood every thought of man was continually violent (Genesis 6:13), and after the flood, the descendents of humanity were corrupted again. God's image, man is at conflict with God's Spirit (Genesis 6:3) For this reason, God scattered humanity after the tower of Babel, throughout the earth. Our iniquities separated us from God, causing a separation between humanity and the Creator, without God man is completely lost.

God however put a plan of redemption in place, which involved the revealing work of God's Holy Spirit, who through prophets, proclaimed God's salvation to the nations.

2. Revealing

Following the fall, our ability to know and understand God, let alone ourselves was damaged and corrupt. Apart from God, we could not even know who we are, or where we came from. This "blindness" is demonstrated by the thousands of different theories and religions, which have developed over the millennia. How did we get here? Where are we going? Both science and religion attempt to find the answers to these

questions. Did we come from nothing? Were we created by the Sun? Are we animals? The questions go on and on.

Only through God's revelation of Himself, could we ever know who we are. Isaiah paints the picture of our lost condition, like blind men we grope along the walls. We are lost and without hope.

9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! 10 We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. Isaiah 59:9-10

God revealed Himself to us through His Spirit, who spoke through the prophets, Moses through the Spirit of God revealed God's will to Israel (Numbers 11:17), the people through whom God would work Redemption for all humanity.

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

Without being aware of our condition, our need for redemption, and the provision for salvation, we would remain in the lost state. Just having the word of God is not enough, we are still blind without the Holy Spirit's light. The Holy Spirit leads a lost person to redemption, the Holy Spirit reveals the light, and leads us to it, so we can understand the Word.

3. Redeeming

Before we can be redeemed, we need to know we need redemption. The problem for many, who rely on their own works, is they have a false sense of security. They don't see their need of redemption, as far as they are concerned, they are not lost.

The Pharisees illustrate this point, being lost and not knowing it, since they relied on their own works and self-righteousness, they saw no need of redemption. Contrast this to the tax collectors and harlots; they knew they were lost, because their works did not blind them.

31 "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. Matthew 21:31-32

The Holy Spirit has a two-fold part in redemption, first the Holy Spirit *convicts us of sin*, then the Holy Spirit leads us to *repentance of sins*. We can't repent if we don't think we need repenting. In the same vain, we limit the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, once we rely on our own righteousness.

Therefore when we rely on God's righteousness and mercy, we are led to redemption, this occurs when the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

4. Indwelling

Once we realize we are lost, and need redemption, the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, and salvation. Then the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our bodies, because we now have the righteousness of Christ. We are "Born Again" of the Spirit (John 3:3,6,8), our bodies are now the Temple of God, because God's Holy Spirit dwells in us (I Cor. 3:17).

Now with God dwelling inside our earthly bodies, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, we no longer need to rely on our own power. We can now have victory over the flesh, because of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:8-9

Without the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we are outside of Christ, we do not have His redemption, we have only our works. With the Spirit, God gives us the ability to have our lives transformed.

5. Transforming

When the Holy Spirit dwells in us, why are there different results with different people? After all isn't God's Spirit one? How can some people have remarkable transformations, while others struggle? For one, God does not force Himself on us, he requires us to respond with obedience, we need to yield ourselves to His Spirit. Without our yielding, we get in the way of the Spirit, we prevent God's Spirit to work in our life.

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18

Our goal is to reflect Christ, we can only accomplish this when we yield to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

6. Filling

The result of the transformed life, which is yielded to the Holy Spirit is a "Spirit filled" life. We have the choice to live a transformed life, filled by the Spirit or a life spiritual stagnation. God gives us the choice to yield to His Spirit or our spirit. .

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
Ephesians 5:18,22-24

When we are led by the Spirit, our circumstances do not matter, the fruit of the Spirit is manifest in our lives. For example, Paul in Acts chapter 16, was beaten and put in prison, you might think Paul would feel sorry for himself, and ask God how could He allow this to happen. Paul on the contrary is rejoicing in the prison, before he is set free.

23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:23-25

The other prisoners listened and the jailer was saved, because the Spirit led Paul.

7. Overcoming

So if we are filled with Spirit, why do why do we still struggle? We are being perfected, not that we are perfect. We are in the process of transformation, day to day into the image of the glory of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:1). Those times we sin, because of anger, lust, pride, covetousness, hate, etc. etc., are times we choose to not yield to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit gives us the ability to conquer the giants of sin in our life, just like Israel entering the Promised Land, ten spies saw the giants in the land and feared them, two spies, Caleb and Joshua saw the same giants, but knew the Lord was able. They walked in faith, and they alone from all those who left Egypt, 20-years and older were allowed to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:29-30). We are at war with the flesh, we have the choice yield to the Flesh or the Spirit.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:17-21

After forty-years of wondering in wilderness, Israel was allowed to enter the Promised Land, led by Joshua. After defeating the city of Jericho, Israel was defeated at Ai, why? Because the disobedience of one man, Achan who willfully disobeyed God's command Israel could not stand. Joshua mourned the defeat. God however, told Joshua to get up and deal with the sin committed by Israel. In the same way, like Joshua, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to find our sins, and remove them. We cannot just mourn our sin, we need to act, we have the power. (Joshua 7)

Through prayer, and spiritual weapons, we have the power of the Spirit to overcome those areas in our life, which prevent us from "Fullness" of God's Spirit. By developing a spiritual "Battle Plan" we can overcome the strongholds in our life, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Outward Focus of the Spirit

Since we reflect the glory of the Lord, we are being made into His image, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to reach out, to the lost world. Jesus came from Heaven to earth to save the lost, like Christ, we are to reach the lost and hurting of this world. The Holy Spirit will give us the power to accomplish the Lord's work, beyond our abilities, if we yield to His power.

8. Gifting

We are all unique individual souls, each one us has a purpose and a part of God's eternal plan. When we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit is the down payment or guarantee of our Redemption (Eph. 1:14).

The Holy Spirit also equips the believer, giving each of us our own gifts, so we can accomplish the Lord's work.

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
I Corinthians 12:3-5

The power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, allow to accomplish more then we would ever be able in the flesh. While the world looks at titles and pedigree, the Spirit looks at the heart, searching our real intents. When we are sincere, and pure before the Lord, we can walk in the power of the Lord.

9. Sending

Before Jesus was taken into Heaven, he told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit. What would the Holy Spirit allow them to do? Jesus said they would have power. Power for what? The Holy Spirit would give them power to "witness" about Jesus. Jesus is the focus of not only the New Testament, but the Old as well.

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

After we come to Christ, we have power, because God's Holy Spirit is dwelling in us. God empowers us to take the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus to the ends of the world. All we need to do is yield to the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are all commissioned to deliver the Good News, we are in fact, commanded. The closer we are to the image of Christ, through the transforming power of the Spirit, the more clear the command is. The Spirit searches our hearts, and makes intercession according to the will of God (Romans 8:27), now the will of God is for us to reach the lost.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
Matthew 28:19-20

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to accomplish, His will.

10. Glorifying

We are in the process of transformation, we are not there yet, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the redemption to come (Eph. 1:14). We will one day be perfect and glorified in the image of Christ, restored from our fallen state. In the book of Revelation, we see the completed work of the Holy Spirit, when the New Jerusalem, the eternal home of the saved descends from the New Heaven and New Earth.

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. Revelation 21:1-7

For the rest of eternity, we will enjoy the presence and blessing of God, today, we are only a shadow of what we will be. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can choose to have a victorious Christian life, looking forward to the day of our redemption. We have God's promise. Our fellowship lost at the fall will be restored.

The Activities of the Spirit

1. Creating

The Spirit of God was with Father and the Son at the creation of the Universe, in Genesis 1:2, "the *Spirit of God* was hovering over the face of the waters". Verse 26, God says, "*Let Us* make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;". We are in the image of God, we have the characteristics of God, we create, we love, we have anger and we become jealous. God modeled us after Himself (Genesis 9:6).

When Adam and Eve fell, all mankind fell, though we were made in God's image, our nature had become fallen. Darkness came upon all the descendents of humanity, God however promised the eventual redemption of humanity through the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15-17), the Messiah.

The fallen nature of humanity is demonstrated before and after the flood, before the flood every thought of man was continually violent (Genesis 6:13), and after the flood, the descendents of humanity were corrupted again. God's image, man is at conflict with God's Spirit (Genesis 6:3) For this reason, God scattered humanity after the tower of Babel, throughout the earth. Our iniquities separated us from God, causing a separation between humanity and the Creator, without God man is completely lost.

God however put a plan of redemption in place, which involved the revealing work of God's Holy Spirit, who through prophets, proclaimed God's salvation to the nations.

2. Revealing

Following the fall, our ability to know and understand God, let alone ourselves was damaged and corrupt. Apart from God, we could not even know who we are, or where we came from. This "blindness" is demonstrated by the thousands of different theories and religions, which have developed over the millennia. How did we get here? Where are we going? Both science and religion attempt to find the answers to these questions. Did we come from nothing? Were we created by the Sun? Are we animals? The questions go on and on.

Only through God's revelation of Himself, could we ever know who we are. Isaiah paints the picture of our lost condition, like blind men we grope along the walls. We are lost and without hope.

9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! 10 We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. Isaiah 59:9-10

God revealed Himself to us through His Spirit, who spoke through the prophets, Moses through the Spirit of God revealed God's will to Israel (Numbers 11:17), the people through whom God would work Redemption for all humanity.

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

Without being aware of our condition, our need for redemption, and the provision for salvation, we would remain in the lost state. Just having the word of God is not enough, we are still blind without the Holy Spirit's light. The Holy Spirit leads a lost person to redemption, the Holy Spirit reveals the light, and leads us to it, so we can understand the Word.

3. Redeeming

Before we can be redeemed, we need to know we need redemption. The problem for many, who rely on their own works, is they have a false sense of security. They don't see their need of redemption, as far as they are concerned, they are not lost.

The Pharisees illustrate this point, being lost and not knowing it, since they relied on their own works and self-righteousness, they saw no need of redemption. Contrast this to the tax collectors and harlots; they knew they were lost, because their works did not blind them.

31 "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. Matthew 21:31-32

The Holy Spirit has a two-fold part in redemption, first the Holy Spirit *convicts us of sin*, then the Holy Spirit leads us to *repentance of sins*. We can't repent if we don't think we need repenting. In the same vain, we limit the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, once we rely on our own righteousness.

Therefore when we rely on God's righteousness and mercy, we are led to redemption, this occurs when the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

4. Indwelling

Once we realize we are lost, and need redemption, the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, and salvation. Then the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our bodies, because we now have the righteousness of Christ. We are "Born Again" of the Spirit (John 3:3,6,8), our bodies are now the Temple of God, because God's Holy Spirit dwells in us (I Cor. 3:17).

Now with God dwelling inside our earthly bodies, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, we no longer need to rely on our own power. We can now have victory over the flesh, because of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:8-9

Without the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we are outside of Christ, we do not have His redemption, we have only our works. With the Spirit, God gives us the ability to have our lives transformed.

5. Transforming

When the Holy Spirit dwells in us, why are there different results with different people? After all isn't God's Spirit one? How can some people have remarkable transformations, while others struggle? For one, God does not force Himself on us, he requires us to respond with obedience, we need to yield ourselves to His Spirit. Without our yielding, we get in the way of the Spirit, we prevent God's Spirit to work in our life.

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18

Our goal is to reflect Christ, we can only accomplish this when we yield to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

6. Filling

The result of the transformed life, which is yielded to the Holy Spirit is a "Spirit filled" life. We have the choice to live a transformed life, filled by the Spirit or a life spiritual stagnation. God gives us the choice to yield to His Spirit or our spirit. .

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
Ephesians 5:18,22-24

When we are led by the Spirit, our circumstances do not matter, the fruit of the Spirit is manifest in our lives. For example, Paul in Acts chapter 16, was beaten and put in prison, you might think Paul would feel sorry for himself, and ask God how could He allow this to happen. Paul on the contrary is rejoicing in the prison, before he is set free.

23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:23-25

The other prisoners listened and the jailer was saved, because the Spirit led Paul.

7. Overcoming

So if we are filled with Spirit, why do why do we still struggle? We are being perfected, not that we are perfect. We are in the process of transformation, day to day into the image of the glory of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:1). Those times we sin, because of anger, lust, pride, covetousness, hate, etc. etc., are times we choose to not yield to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit gives us the ability to conquer the giants of sin in our life, just like Israel entering the Promised Land, ten spies saw the giants in the land and feared them, two spies, Caleb and Joshua saw the same giants, but knew the Lord was able. They walked in faith, and they alone from all those who left Egypt, 20-years and older were allowed to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:29-30). We are at war with the flesh, we have the choice yield to the Flesh or the Spirit.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:17-21

After forty-years of wondering in wilderness, Israel was allowed to enter the Promised Land, led by Joshua. After defeating the city of Jericho, Israel was defeated at Ai, why? Because the disobedience of one man, Achan who willfully disobeyed God's command Israel could not stand. Joshua mourned the defeat. God however, told Joshua to get up and deal with the sin committed by Israel. In the same way, like Joshua, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to find our sins, and remove them. We cannot just mourn our sin, we need to act, we have the power. (Joshua 7)

Through prayer, and spiritual weapons, we have the power of the Spirit to overcome those areas in our life, which prevent us from "Fullness" of God's Spirit. By developing a spiritual "Battle Plan" we can overcome the strongholds in our life, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Outward Focus of the Spirit

Since we reflect the glory of the Lord, we are being made into His image, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to reach out, to the lost world. Jesus came from Heaven to earth to save the lost, like Christ, we are to

reach the lost and hurting of this world. The Holy Spirit will give us the power to accomplish the Lord's work, beyond our abilities, if we yield to His power.

8. Gifting

We are all unique individual souls, each one us has a purpose and a part of God's eternal plan. When we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit is the down payment or guarantee of our Redemption (Eph. 1:14).

The Holy Spirit also equips the believer, giving each of us our own gifts, so we can accomplish the Lord's work.

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. I Corinthians 12:3-5

The power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, allow to accomplish more then we would ever be able in the flesh. While the world looks at titles and pedigree, the Spirit looks at the heart, searching our real intents. When we are sincere, and pure before the Lord, we can walk in the power of the Lord.

9. Sending

Before Jesus was taken into Heaven, he told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit. What would the Holy Spirit allow them to do? Jesus said they would have power. Power for what? The Holy Spirit would give them power to "witness" about Jesus. Jesus is the focus of not only the New Testament, but the Old as well.

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

After we come to Christ, we have power, because God's Holy Spirit is dwelling in us. God empowers us to take the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus to the ends of the world. All we need to do is yield to the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are all commissioned to deliver the Good News, we are in fact, commanded. The closer we are to the image of Christ, through the transforming power of the Spirit, the more clear the command is. The Spirit searches our hearts, and makes intercession according to the will of God (Romans 8:27), now the will of God is for us to reach the lost.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to accomplish, His will.

10. Glorifying

We are in the process of transformation, we are not there yet, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the redemption to come (Eph. 1:14). We will one day be perfect and glorified in the image of Christ, restored from our fallen state. In the book of Revelation, we see the completed work of the Holy Spirit, when the New Jerusalem, the eternal home of the saved descends from the New Heaven and New Earth.

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. Revelation 21:1-7

For the rest of eternity, we will enjoy the presence and blessing of God, today, we are only a shadow of what we will be. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can choose to have a victorious Christian life, looking forward to the day of our redemption. We have God's promise. Our fellowship lost at the fall will be restored.

What does it mean to be Spirit filled?

The filling of the Spirit differs in the *New Covenant* era, compared to the *Old Covenant*. The reason for this difference is one of relationship. Before the birth of the Messiah, humanity awaited His arrival; the prophets foretold His coming. The Messiah came to redeem lost humanity for our fallen state. Messiah would die for the sins of Adam and Eve's descendents; He would redeem us from our sins. Therefore, those who were before Messiah's death (Jesus Christ) did not have their sins paid for until after the cross.

Job looked forward to the coming of the Redeemer, who would one day resurrect him, allowing to see with his own eyes and not another's.

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!
Job 19:25-27

In the period before Christ we see selective people filled by the Spirit, for specific purposes of ministry. The Holy Spirit was not permanent and could be removed, David pleaded for the Holy Spirit to not be removed (Psalm 51:11). The creation of the Tabernacle and clothing of priesthood was the result of the filling of the Spirit on select people to accomplish specific work for the Lord.

30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 "and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,
Exodus 35:30-31

Following Pentecost, the power and the filling of the Holy Spirit became available to all who accepted Christ, born of the Spirit (John 3:3-8). This is an amazing event, only experienced by the believer, so we should understand just what it means to be filled by the Spirit. Being filled by the Spirit is conditional, we can or cannot be filled. The filling of the Spirit, depends on our relationship with the Lord. This is not about salvation, which requires the Spirit of God to dwell in us, all believers must have this, but not everybody is filled by the Spirit.

The difference scripture makes between being "saved" and "being filled" is clear, it is about the degree of the relationship we have with the Lord. When someone comes to Christ they are saved (they have the Spirit), what do we choose to do with our salvation is another issue. If for example you received an inheritance, the property and money of an estate became yours. You could either squander the blessing or use it to accomplish more. In the same way, when we receive the Spirit, we receive an eternal inheritance from God, we have the choice, to allow God's Spirit to us or not use us.

When we yield ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit, an amazing event happens; we become filled with the Spirit. Scripture commands us to seek the continual filling of the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. Ephesians 5:18-21

When the Spirit of God is in control of our lives, there is both internal and external evidence of the Spirit filled life. Paul uses the illustration of wine to contrast someone filled by the Spirit. The power of wine is evident when we see somebody drunk, they are filled with "alcohol" to the point where it overflows. The results of alcohol are visible, so in the same way the Holy Spirit should be visible to the world, we should be "drunk" with the Spirit.

The internal relationship

The filing of the Holy Spirit is an internal relationship, between the Holy Spirit and the person. From this internal relationship then flows external evidence. Is God's Spirit in control of our life? When we yield to the Spirit, then the results follow, because the Spirit of God is working through us as opposed to us doing he work. We became the vehicle God uses to accomplish His work. The external circumstances are only secondary, because the internal relationship is primary.

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

The disciples after they prayed, they received power to proclaim the word of God with boldness, first they yield through prayer, the filling of the Holy Spirit was the result, an internal event. Out of this internal control of the Holy Spirit, the disciples became a vehicle for the word of God to be proclaimed.

Through the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we have a relationship with God. The status of a relationship depends on the communication between parties. A relationship can be encouraged or quenched. Such is the case with the Holy Spirit, scripture clearly teaches the Holy Spirit is the "third person" in the trinity who dwells in us allowing us to have fellowship with God.

This relationship can be quenched like any relationship. Paul warns us (I Thes. 5:19) not to quench our relationship with the Holy Spirit, because we harm our relationship with God. We quench our relationship with God, when we yield to our old nature.

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.
26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
27 nor give place to the devil.
28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:22-32

We have a choice, we can choose to yield or not yield control of our life to the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians chapter 4, we see very specific examples of choices, which indicate whether we have given control of our lives over to the Spirit. The conduct of the *old man* grieves the Holy Spirit. These specific actions will effect or relationship.

- deceitful lusts
- lying
- unforgiving anger
- stealing
- corrupt words
- bitterness
- wrath
- clamor (screaming)
- evil speaking
- malice (meanness)

These actions quench the Spirit of God; they grieve him because they feed our old nature, our old man. They prevent us from being filled, because God's Spirit is grieved within us because of our actions. Our live are un-yielded to the Holy Spirit, if these terms describe us.

External fruit

When we have yielded to the Spirit, we produce fruit; the Holy Spirit harvests a crop from our soil. An evil spirit produces bad fruit; the Holy Spirit produces good fruit. What kind of fruit do we yield?

17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.
Matthew 7:17-20

So if we are saved, and have God's Spirit dwelling us, are we producing "good fruit"? The fruit we produce is an indication of our relationship. Galatians lists these fruits and they are clear indication if we have yielded to the Holy Spirit.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
Galatians 5:22-26

We should evaluate our lives, by taking an inventory of our fruit. Many employers do an annual review of their employees, by evaluating their work. They sit down and examine their work, the pluses and minus, if they lack, they tell them what they need to do. If they do many times they get a bonus or advance. In the same way, we can evaluate our own life, where do the *Fruits of the Spirit* stand in our life.

1. Do I **love** those around me, including my enemies?

2. Do I have inner **joy**, regardless of my circumstances?

3. Do I have inner **peace**?

4. Am I **patient** (longsuffering) in my circumstances?

5. Would those around think of me as **kind**?

6. Would **goodness** be a quality that describes me?

7. Do I live a **faith-filled** life?

8. How do I treat those around me, am I **gentle**, mean or indifferent?

9. Do I have **self-control** over my flesh, or does it control me?

If we see a definite lack of these fruits in our life, we need to evaluate why. Can we change the results? Can we establish a course of action, so the results demonstrate fruit of the Spirit? Remember we can take all this before the Lord and pray for these fruits, these fruits are God's will, so praying for them is in accordance to God's will.

Gifts of the Spirit

When we have the Spirit in our lives, we are being transformed into the image of Christ. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, to make us Christ-like. (2 Corinthians 3;18) When we examine the filling of the Spirit, in scripture, they occurred for ministering to others. As a member of the Church, we are part of the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit equips us to minister to the world we live, through gifts. When we become Spirit filled, the gifts of God's Spirit are used to produce fruit.

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
I Corinthians 12:4-11

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.I Corinthians 12:28-31

1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.
I Corinthians 14:1-4,12

8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." Ephesians 4:8

According to Corinthians why does the Spirit become manifest in our life? To bring glory to the individual, no but for the profit of all, who make up the church. The Holy Spirit has a gift for every believer, so the whole body of Christ can benefit. What is your gift? These are the gifts mentioned in I Cor. 12.

- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Healings
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- discerning of spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

When we are filled by the Spirit, we allow God to use us, by ministering to those around us.

How can we establish a Spiritual Battle plan?

God the Holy Spirit

Summary (top)

The Holy Spirit is the primary presence of God among us today. He Reveals God through Scripture, by making Himself known and by guiding and directing God's people. He enables and empowers believers by giving and sustaining all life, by giving power and gifts to serve God, by bringing forth fruit in believers; and by purifying, teaching and uniting believers. But the Spirit's presence and blessing is dependent upon our response to Him: He brings blessing, but the blessing may be temporarily removed or lessened. Acting with hardened disobience towards the Holy Spirit brings strong judgement, and irrationally rejecting the truth of the Holy Spirit's work in Jesus and then attributing it to Satan cannot be forgiven.

Introduction (top)

Whilst the presence of God was manifested on this earth in the glory of God in OT times, and in the Person of Jesus in NT times, the Holy Spirit is the primary presence of God among us today.

The person of the Holy Spirit has been dealt with (in the section on the trinity), so this section will deal mostly with the Spirit's work in this world.

We see generally that the Spirit has two main roles: to reveal and to sustain. That is, the Spirit reveals the nature of God and God's direction for believers on earth, and sustains believers, allowing them to be more godly. The Spirit also plays a pivotal role in salvation, working in believers to purify them, and teach them God's way.

The Biblical Teaching

The Holy Spirit is Within All True Believers (top)

The Spirit of God lives in all true believers - those that have repented and asked God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Therefore believers' bodies are temples of God, and should be treated accordingly.

- "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The Holy Spirit Reveals God (top)

Through Scripture (top)

- "They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry" (Zechariah 7:12).
- "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

By Making Himself Known (top)

- "Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him'" (John 1:32).
- "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:16).

By Guiding and Directing God's People (top)

- "The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it'" (Acts 8:29).
- "...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

The Holy Spirit Enables and Empowers Believers (top)

He Gives and Sustains All Life (top)

- "When you send your Spirit, they are created" (Psalm 104:30a).
- "If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust." (Job 34:14-15)

He Gives Power and Gifts to Believers to Serve God (top)

- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
- "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

He Brings forth fruit in believers (top)

- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

He Purifies (top)

- "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5-6).

He Teaches (top)

- "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come" (John 16:13).
- "We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us" (1 Corinthian 2:12)

He Unifies (top)

- "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).
- "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (Philippians 2:1-2).

The Holy Spirit's Presence and Blessing is Dependent Upon Our Response to Him (top)

The Spirit brings blessing (top)

- We can know fellowship with the Holy Spirit: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded" (Philippians 2:1-2).
- He gives gifts and ministries: "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)
- We have access to the Father through Him: "For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (Ephesians 2:18).

The Spirit's blessing may be temporarily removed or lessened (top)

This is the case when one in whom the Spirit dwells disobeys the leadings of the Spirit.

- Though the Spirit had been with Samson, after Samson's continued disobedience He left him (Judges 16:20).
- When the Israelites rebelled they grieved the Holy Spirit and He turned against them (Isaiah 63:10).
- Paul warned the Ephesian Churches 'not to grieve the Holy Spirit' (Ephesians 4:30).

Acting with hardened disobeience towards the Holy Spirit brings strong judgement (top)

- Annanias and Saphira 'lied to the Holy Spirit' and instantly fell down dead (Acts 5:1-10).
- The author of Hebrews warns of outraging the Holy Spirit: " If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:26-31)

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven (top)

- Jesus says: "every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (Matthew 12:31-32 cf, Mark 3:29-30 & Luke 12:10).

- The author of Hebrews says: "It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace." (Hebrews 6:4-6)

Jesus' words here are spoken in the context of the Pharisees seeing the miraculous work of God in Jesus, then maliciously, willfully and irrationally attributed it to Satan. This, and the passage from Hebrews, indicates that Jesus is speaking about a sin that is not simply unbelief or rejection of Christ, but includes one who has a clear knowledge and understanding of Christ and the Spirit's power through Him, but rejects this truth, and attributes the glorious work of the Spirit to Satan. In such a case an understanding of the truth of Christ and a demonstration of the Spirit's power will not lead to forgiveness for the person has already confronted these and rejected them.

How To Know You're Saved

By David J. Stewart

The Holy Spirit Beareth Witness

You can know for certain that you are saved!!! I say this confidently because God knows whether or not you are His Child. Any uncertainties which you may have concerning your salvation does not change God's certainty of your salvation. If you are God's Child, then He has promised to tell you that you are saved... "The Spirit itself **BEARETH WITNESS** with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). When you became a believer, the Godhead moved into your heart—i.e., God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit came into your soul to live forever. The Godhead lives within our body in the Person of God, the Holy Spirit. It is God's very Spirit that testifies to our own spirit that we are a Child of God. What a wonderful blessing!!!

How does God's Holy Spirit bear witness to our spirit that we are saved? Listen to the precious Words of Jesus... "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **COMFORTER**, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16,17). Wow!!! What a wonderful truth to know that God (the Comforter) lives in my heart. This is how I know I'm saved—He lives within my soul. He talks with me and walks with me all along life's way. The Holy Spirit is "God with me." He's that little voice that continually convicts me, comforts me and brings truths to my mind to remind me of how to live for God.

The Holy Spirit speaks to me about God's will. I remember when I first became a Believer as a young man. There were some obvious changes in my life which occurred, but I did not recognize them until years later. One big change was a sincere desire to read and learn the Bible after I became a Christian. Another big change was a conviction over the sins in my life and the fact that God wanted me to live right. I had never felt that before until I became saved. I remember for the first time in my life experiencing that little small voice of the Holy Spirit saying, "GOD doesn't want you to do this anymore" or "GOD wants you to start doing this." Something was very different

in my life after I became saved. I even recall hearing my mother say to me, “You’ve really changed lately and I’m proud of you.” Again, God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit came to live within my heart in the person of God the Holy Spirit the day I accepted Jesus as Savior. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit, just as I am a spirit. He is God in every way.

Also, When I became a believer many years ago, God’s Spirit merged in holy matrimony with my spirit—a marriage. This is why the Church is referred to as the “Bride of Christ” in the Book of Revelation. Jesus is the Bridegroom of the Church. There is a spiritual union between God’s Spirit and the spirit of each and every one of His Children. If you do not have the Holy Spirit living within your soul—you are NOT God’s Child!!! Only a Child of God has the Holy Spirit living inside—It is His very presence that makes you God’s Child. If you are God’s Child, it is simply because God literally lives in you. This is called the “new birth” or being “born-again” ... “Ye must be **BORN AGAIN**” (John 3:7). It is the Holy Spirit’s uniting with our spirit that conceives the new birth within us. It is the Word of God which is the Seed that brings salvation.

Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

I’d like to say a bit concerning the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a Person, just as I am a person. I believe He has a physical body in Heaven, just as God the Father and God the Son each have a physical body in Heaven. We read that Jesus sits on the right hand of the Father in Heaven. 1st Peter 3:22 states concerning Christ that He is... “gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God.” For someone to do a physical act (such as “sit”), they would require a body. Therefore, it is only logical that God the Father and God the Son have physical bodies in Heaven. They both sit upon their thrones.

True, God told us He is a Spirit and they that worship Him must do so in spirit; however, we are all spirits as well. We are spirits living in a material world. What John 4:24 means is that our DEAD spirit cannot communicate with His LIVING Spirit unless we become born-again... “And you hath he quickened, who were **DEAD** in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). The word “quickened” means “to make alive.” When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and ask Him to forgive our sins—His living Spirit brings life to our dead spirit and we become ONE with God. This is the new birth. Even though Jesus’ body dwells in Heaven, His spirit dwells in our soul as well (if you are saved). This is why Jesus is referred to as the “Spirit of Christ”... “Now if any man have not the **SPIRIT OF CHRIST**, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9).

Incidentally, don’t let anyone fool you concerning the resurrection of Christ—He arose in a physical body. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, His body was seen moving farther upward and upward into the Heavens... “And when he had spoken these things, **WHILE THEY BEHELD**, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of **THEIR SIGHT**. And while they **LOOKED STEDFASTLY** toward heaven as **HE WENT UP**, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye **GAZING UP** into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner **AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM** go into heaven.” There’s no doubt about it, Jesus left this earth in a physical body. He rose up into the clouds until His body could be seen no longer. He went to Heaven.

Unsaved People Don't Have the Holy Spirit

Either you have the Holy Spirit within or you don't!!! Either God lives in your heart or He doesn't. Either your saved or you are not. I wanted to start this chapter with the Holy Spirit because God has PROMISED to bear witness with our spirit if We are indeed His Children. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the best way to know your saved. Why? ...because the world CANNOT receive what they CANNOT see. **An unsaved person CANNOT see the Holy Spirit of God.** They don't feel the conviction from God to forgive others, even as we have been forgiven by Christ (Ephesians 4:32). The Spirit of God guides us as we read the Scriptures. The unsaved person CANNOT makes heads-or-tails out of the truth they are reading. To the unsaved, everybody is a Child of God, which is NOT true.

To the unsaved, the Cherubim's of Ezekiel one are flying saucers—ridiculously NOT true. To the unsaved, the Bible is strictly supposed to be a Book of love and the homosexual lifestyle is to be tolerated, which is unbiblical. To the unsaved, the Bible is a fairytale; but to us who believe it is God's holy Word. There is a world of difference between the saved and the unsaved. Look over your life and try to see the Holy Spirit. **I honestly believe that many Believers have problems with the assurance of their salvation simply because they are ignorant of the Holy Spirit—His presence, His purpose, His power, His Deity, His knowledge, His person, etc.**

Learn about the Holy Spirit for He is your Guide and Comforter through life and beyond. He is God in your heart. He will rebuke you and chasten you with conviction when you sin. He will empower you as you tell others of Christ. The Holy Spirit will strengthen you and heal you. He will remind you that God loves you dearly during the darkest hours of your life. Volumes of books could be written about the wondrous Holy Spirit. Look up the term "Holy Spirit" in a Strong's Concordance and read all the Scriptures concerning Him—this is how you learn about Him.

It is Human to Fear the Unknown

Now I'm going to help you immensely if you are still having doubts about your salvation. I've introduced you to God the Holy Spirit—Because you need to recognize Him in your life. If you are saved, He lives inside your soul.

Now I'd like to tell you why you have doubts. We read in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for **LACK OF KNOWLEDGE**." Have you ever walked into a dark room and were afraid while looking for the light switch? I have. I remember as a small boy going down into the pitch black basement. We had one of those old ceiling socket lamps that had a long string hanging down. You'd pull the string to turn the light on or off. I would walk slowly into that dark basement while gently swinging my arm, feeling for that string. I couldn't find it fast enough it seemed!!! Why was I scared? ...because I didn't know what might be lurking in the dark.

The same is true of walking down a dark alley at night. People are afraid of the unknown—this is normal. People are naturally afraid of the things in life which they don't understand. If someone says they have AIDS, most people want to get as far away from them as possible—but the truth is that AIDS is not contagious. Many deformed people are shunned and made to feel as inferior because of the way they look. Why? ...because people don't know how to deal with something their afraid of.

Ignorance is largely the problem!!! Why do people fear their salvation? ...because they are ignorant of the Word of God!!! It's as simple as that. This book I have written contains many truths which the Holy Spirit of God has taught me over the years through my own painful experiences. I take no credit for myself—these are God's truths!!! I simply needed to hear from God and He opened the

eyes of my understanding through the Scriptures. This is why Jesus tells us in John 5:39 to... ***SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!!!*** I had feared concerning my salvation for over seven long emotional years. I was so afraid of missing the boat to Heaven and ending up in Hell. The Lord gave me the sweet knowledge and assurance, beyond-any-shadow-of-a-doubt, that I am saved. I had been focusing upon whether or not I did everything just right to be saved; but I came to understand that I am saved by HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, i.e., the imputed righteousness of Christ Jesus. Amen! My part was simply to believe.

Salvation is of God; Not Man

I had to learn that it was God's Salvation, not mine—God did the saving, not me. I was looking to what I had done in the past—Did I mean what I said? ... Did I pray just right? ... Did I have enough faith? ... What if God didn't save me? ... Am I really saved? ... What if I didn't know I was a sinner? ... What if I only turned over a new leaf? ... What if? ... What if? ... What if? I was driving myself out of my mind worrying!!! Sound familiar? I was looking to a **past experience** and not to the faith which I PRESENTLY possessed in my heart. I realized one day that salvation does NOT rest in a past experience—It rests in Jesus Christ. I had a present faith in the Lord as my Savior. I wasn't born with that. Somewhere along the way I had become a believer, but couldn't remember where or when.

Oh, I could point to a bunch of times and places where I prayed the sinner's prayer, asking for Christ to forgive my sins; however, I had little idea WHEN I had been saved. To this day, I can't remember the exact year, but I remember the place. It was scary not being able to identify a particular time when I was saved. I had asked the Lord to save me dozens of times for fear I hadn't been sincere enough each time. I was scared and kept asking the Lord to save me. I was confused, wondering which of those dozens of times I had cried out to God He had saved me. The answer is simple my friend—**The very first time!!!** The very first time you turn to Jesus Christ—even with the smallest amount of faith—He comes into your heart as your Savior and forgives all your sins. All the other fifty or so times I had prayed for God to save me was simply done in ignorance and God didn't mind that a bit—He knew that I needed to learn many things.

The older I get, the more I realize how little I really know. God's infinite power and creation is beyond the scope of human understanding. We must trust God with the things we don't understand. We must not place God on trial as the heathen do. **Do you realize that God can listen attentively to the prayers of ten thousand saints all at the same time!!!** How can a mere human being comprehend such power and greatness??? Oh, that men would fall on their faces before God in repentance. God is so wonderful and precious!!! Do you fear God? You certainly should.

Jesus: Our Defense Attorney

God is very real to me and it is a bit scary sometimes to realize that I MUST one day stand before Him. However, my fears are alleviated when I realize that I am safe in Christ, and that He is my Defense Attorney (Advocate) in Heaven (1st John 2:1). If you've ever been summonsed to court, and had the privilege of having a lawyer, then you know the sweet peace that having a lawyer brings. Jesus' blood sacrifice made everything right between God the Father and me the day I got saved.

However, I still fear to stand before the God of the universe, because I must give account for my life (Romans 14:12; 2nd Corinthians 5:10-11). I look forward to that day, but I fear it as well. I want God to settle every matter, and make things right. I surely don't deserve anything besides hell-fire but thank God that Jesus atoned for my sins so that I could be saved and become heir to share in Christ's riches in eternity. This is true of each and every Child of God. Are you a Child of God?

You Can Know You're Saved Apart from All Past Experiences

I would like to say again that your hope of salvation should not rest in the past. However, you should remember AT LEAST A TIME AND PLACE where you believed on Jesus to save you. It might have been at home in your room, or at the park, or in a subway, or at church, et cetera—It does NOT matter "where" or "when"—Just as long as you confessed you were a sinner to God and trusted Jesus Christ to forgive and save you. That is very simple isn't it? Salvation is simple.

Perhaps you say, "But I don't know what I prayed years ago, I can't remember?" Don't fret my friend, I've been where you are. First, stop looking to the past!!! Ask yourself this question: **If I died right now, am I 100% sure I would go to Heaven?** If you think you would, but are not confident about it, then ask yourself this next question: **What or Who am I trusting to get me to Heaven when I die?** If your answer is Jesus Christ alone, then you have no cause to fear.

Now ask yourself this question: **Why am I trusting Jesus? What is so special about Jesus that I am supposed to trust Him alone?** Here is how I would answer...

"Because I came to God as a guilty, hell-deserving sinner who could NOT save myself. God Almighty came down from Heaven into this sin-cursed world and became flesh. Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life as God in the flesh. Jesus came as the Christ (the Messiah) to save lost sinners. He was falsely accused and wrongfully tried. Jesus was beaten, mocked and shamed by the Roman soldiers. Jesus was crucified on a cross. He shed His precious blood for our sins. He died and was buried. Jesus then arose bodily from the dead three days later. He ascended into Heaven to present Himself before the Father with the shed blood (Hebrews 9:12,24). Jesus sprinkled His blood on the heavenly Mercyseat in the presence of God the Father. God was pleased and His requirement for justice was completely satisfied by Jesus' blood. The blood made salvation available for ALL mankind."

That's why I trust Jesus for my salvation... because Jesus has the scars. Why should I trust Jesus? ...because Jesus paid the price!!! **Jesus paid a debt that He did NOT owe, because we owed a debt that we could NOT pay.**

What is Important is That You're Trusting Christ Now

If you have present, genuine faith in Jesus Christ, that He is the only One Who can cleanse your sins, and you are trusting Him alone for salvation—then you are saved. Think about this: You weren't born trusting Jesus—If you are trusting Jesus now then you MUST have started at some point. Listen my friend, you don't just accidentally wake up one day and find out that you have faith in Christ. No, at some point in the past you made a DELIBERATE and CONSCIOUS DECISION to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. **If you are trusting Jesus "now," then somewhere in the "past" you started—Where or when is not important just so long as you are trusting Him NOW.**

I'm simply saying that you CAN determine if you're saved by what is in your heart NOW—you do NOT need to confirm past prayers or experiences within your mind. Salvation is NOT a prayer, although you may pray for Jesus to save you. Salvation is NOT an experience, although you might remember a specific time and place where you called on Jesus. Salvation is NOT a decision, but you'll need to make the decision to call upon Jesus to be saved. What is salvation??? Salvation is a supernatural act of Almighty God in response to your faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, because of what Jesus accomplished to pay for our sins and redeem us back to God. If Jesus hadn't died on the cross or shed His blood, then it would be in vain to trust Him.

The reason why we are commanded to believe on Jesus Christ is because Jesus paid the price to satisfy God's wrath. Only through Jesus Christ can mankind be reconciled with God the Father... "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, **BUT BY ME**" (John 14:6). Do you see my friend? If you are saved now, then that is all that matters—Not what happened in the obscure past which you'll never be able to remember. Are you trusting Jesus today? Are you looking to the Lord presently for salvation? Then you must have started somewhere!!! Where or when does NOT matter just as long as you are trusting Him NOW.

The Smallest Amount of Faith in Christ Will Save

Jesus NEVER told anyone "to pray" to be saved. Jesus never told anyone "to make a decision" to be saved. Jesus never told anyone "to have an experience" to be saved. Jesus never told anyone "to have much faith" to be saved. No, Jesus simply told the people to **believe on Him**. Any amount of faith is satisfactory, just so long as it is placed in Jesus Christ. This is true today as well as 2,000 years ago, or 4,000 years ago. Genesis 15:6 tells us that Abraham believed the Lord and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Either you have faith or you don't. You don't need a certain amount of faith to be saved—even the smallest amount of faith will satisfy the Father in Heaven.

The question is do you have faith in Christ??? Most people will admit that Jesus exists, but they aren't relying upon Him for salvation. They are trusting their own self-righteousness and religion to save them. They have a distorted view of Christ. How do you view Jesus? Every false religion diminishes Jesus' Deity. Jesus wants us to accept Him as God Almighty... "***for if ye believe not that I AM he, ye shall die in your sins***" (John 8:24).

Ignorance of the Bible Causes Fear and Insecurity

I hope some of the things I have shared with you has been helpful. I have asked the Holy Spirit umpteen times throughout the writing of this book for guidance and wisdom. I believe He has helped me throughout. Though I don't claim to be an author, I do claim to be a sincere man with an honest heart's desire to help others obtain God's salvation and the full assurance of that salvation. So much could be said about this matter.

Note that "eternal security" is different from "assurance of salvation." Some folks believe you can lose your salvation. This is NOT true. However, we are not discussing that matter. We are discussing "How to know you're saved." I just wanted you to know the distinction between the two. Many fine folks are saved, but live in constant fear due to a lack of understanding about the Bible. I cannot stress this point enough.

During my time of doubt I set out to learn everything I could about salvation. I kept my ears and eyes open for anything in a sermon, a tract or a book that involved faith or salvation. I remember as a teenager telling God that He owed it to me to give me the assurance of my salvation if I were really His Child. Likewise, I also told the Lord that if I were NOT saved, He owed it to me to tell me so I could get saved. I put God on the spot. I was frustrated and wanted an answer soon. I told God that I would get saved in a second if I were to find out that I was not saved. The big problem was that I just didn't know. Had someone shown me the things I've just shared with you, I think I would have found my answer. I was so concerned back then about whether or not I had prayed the correct thing. I repeatedly asked God to save me, month after month, year after year, tear after tear. Why couldn't I find peace. It wasn't until I did a thorough study of the Bible that I found peace.

A good example of what I'm saying is something that happened to me years ago. I used to be scared to work on cars. Why? ...because I was afraid of getting hurt by something I didn't understand. I was afraid I might also do some major damage to the car. I had the opportunity to take some auto repair classes shortly thereafter. Do you know—something amazing happened—I wasn't afraid to work on cars anymore. I even rebuilt a few engines. I lost the fear when I gained the confidence, when I understood what was going on. This is what you need—Confidence, which can only come from an understanding of how the Bible works.

To start, try to find out why each Bible Book was written. Did you know that the Apostle Paul wrote Romans specifically to lead the Romans to Christ? Did you know that Paul wrote Galatians because some of his converts were yoking together with a false religion? Did you know that Paul wrote Philippians while sitting in prison? Did you know that the Apostle John wrote 1st John so we could KNOW we're saved? ... "These **THINGS** have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **KNOW** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1st John 5:13).

So we see that we can KNOW that we're saved. There is no excuse to wonder or fear. What "things" did John write about? Well, I think the two preceding verses sums it all up very nicely, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON. HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1st John 5:11,12). Eternal life comes from God alone. This "eternal life" is found in Jesus Christ alone. If you have Jesus living in your heart, you have salvation. Simply trust Christ with all your heart. Put all-your-apples-in-one-basket so to speak. Don't trust the church, the Pope, self-righteous works, good deeds, baptism or anything else—only Jesus!!! **Remember, salvation is NOT found in a religion, it is found in a person—Jesus Christ!!!**

NEED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the Bible's greatest truths is that when we come to Christ and commit our lives to Him, He comes to live within us by His Holy Spirit. In fact, the Bible warns, "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ" (Romans 8:9). If you know Jesus, the Holy Spirit already lives within you -- whether you feel His presence or not.

Why has He been given? The Bible gives several reasons -- but behind them all is our need for God's help. The Holy Spirit, the Bible says, "helps us in our weakness" (Romans 8:26). He convicts us of sin, He opens our eyes to God's truth, He grants us spiritual gifts, He counsels and guides us -- all these and more would be impossible without His help.

Never forget that the Holy Spirit isn't an impersonal force or power (like electricity or gravity); He is God. Think of it: God Himself now dwells within you if you know Christ! Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17). Because He lives within us, we can ask God to help us in our times of need, and to give us the courage and strength to live as we should.

Don't try to live the Christian life in your own strength; if you do, you will only fail. Instead, trust the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom and strength you need.

God the Holy Spirit's Work in the Church

The Holy Spirit not only empowers the believer with gifts but works actively in the church and even appoints church leadership (Acts 20:28). Here are a few examples:

Acts 8:29 "*Then the Spirit said to Philip, Go near and overtake this chariot*."

Acts 11:12 "*Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house*."

Acts 13:12 "*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them*."

Acts 5:3-4 "*But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God*."

1 Cor 2:9-12 "*However, as it is written: What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us*."

1 Pet 1:12 "I*t was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things*."

Rom 8:26 "*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans*."

John 15:26 "*When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me*."

John 16:13 "*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come*."

Acts 16:6-7 "*Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to*."

Acts 20:28 "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God which he bought with his own blood."

Roman 8:14 "*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God*."

John 16:8 "*When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment*."

Ephesians 1:13-14 "*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy*

Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

Isaiah 34:16 "*Look in the scroll of the LORD and read: one of these will be missing, not one will lack her mate. For it is his mouth that has given the order, And his Spirit will gather them together*."

2 Peter 1:20-21 "*First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God*."

Praying to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the least understood of the Trinity of God. He is the most neglected even though He is involved perhaps the most in a believer's life. The Holy Spirit is the One Who reveals Who the Savior is and opens up our minds to understand the Word of God because flesh and blood does not bring meaning to the Scriptures. We can not understand what we are reading unless the Holy Spirit teaches us and imparts meaning to us. Almost every time you read reference to the "Spirit", particularly in the New Testament, it is speaking of God the Holy Spirit. The "Spirit" is *the* Spirit – God the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is not a force to be drawn upon like a power but drawing on the power of God. He *is* the very power of God. You can not know Jesus without Him. You can not possibly overcome sin without His power. You can not have eternal life without His revealing the Source of this eternal life (John 3).

When you sit down to read the Bible, pray to the Holy Spirit. Pray that He will reveal what is being read in the Bible for part of the role of the Holy Spirit is to teach us all things, as Christ told the disciples before He departed. The Holy Spirit is also a Helper, a Comforter and He teaches us about the things of God (John 14:26, Luke 12:12). God the Holy Spirit also guides us in revealing the meaning of God's written Word (John 16:13) and reminds us of things we need to remember (John 14:26). If you want to know a sort of job description of the Holy Spirit, John, chapters 14, 15 and 16 will help immensely. Romans chapter 8 is also a chapter that describes the role and work of God the Holy Spirit. It mentions "the Spirit" frequently in this chapter and this Spirit is none other than God the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit *is* God

God the Holy Spirit brings godly repentance and brings about an awareness of when we are not doing the right thing. He will begin to deal with the sins in our life and help us overcome them. We are not the ones necessarily that conquer sin; God the Holy Spirit is the power that dwells in us to help us do this. We can not possibly overcome sin by human effort. This doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit stops all the urges nor will He stop our returning to sin, but the Holy Spirit prompts and urges the believer to not engage in such behavior as well as other ungodly acts. God the Holy Spirit enables us to do good works – not to be saved – but because we *are* saved. The Holy Spirit also points to and always seeks to glorify Jesus Christ. So too should we. In this way, we can join in purpose with God the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus Christ. The next time you think of the Holy Spirit, think of Him as God Himself. For the Holy Spirit *is* God, *was* God, and will *forever* be God. Jesus is also called Immanuel (God with us); God the Holy Spirit is God in us; if we are Christians. That is Who the Holy Spirit is.

9 Powerful Gifts of the Spirit From the Bible

by Jack Wellman on April 25, 2011 · 382 comments · Print · Email

What are these gifts of the Spirit? How can you know that you have particular gifts of the Spirit? Can others give us an indication of what our gift is? What does the believer do with these gifts in the church? Are some gifts more important than others? Are the gifts of healing still being accessed today by believers? Is the gift of miracles still existent in the church today?

Each and every believer has been given by the indwelling of the Spirit of God, gifts of the Spirit (Acts 2:38). In Acts chapter 8 and in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14 we see external gifts of the Holy Spirit. They were not gifts that they have been developed by human capacities, therefore the believer has absolutely no right to brag on these gifts. If we exalt in our gifts, we are taking credit for something that we have not earned ourselves. It is like taking credit for a gift you receive on your birthday. It is just that; a gift that was not yours but given to your freely and it is given apart from any inherent capabilities that you have within you. It is not like changing the old hymn from How Great Thou Art to How Great I Am.

No believer can say that they have no gift of the Spirit from God. God has given all believers gifts; some have several but everyone has these gifts. These gifts of the Spirit are given not for the believer but for the Body of Christ. It is to make the Body complete. These gifts are intended for the church to edify it, to strengthen it, to feed it, to exhort it, to encourage it and to have the Body of Christ empowered to do the work of Christ. These gifts are always to exalt Christ, to witness of God's power, to build up the Body, and to work to enlarge the Body of Christ by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost. There are several biblical tools and surveys that believers can use to discover their own gifts of the Spirit. These are helpful applications to allow the Christian to see what their gifts are and therefore how they can best help the church. No believer in Christ has any gift of the Spirit.

Isaiah 11:2-3 speaks of seven different spirits or gifts: "And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will delight in obeying the Lord.
He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay (called discernment)." These are important gifts and some of them are similar to but different from the gifts of the Spirit that Paul talks about in the New Testament in I Corinthians chapter twelve. There are nine gifts of the Spirit mentioned by Paul in I Corinthians chapter twelve:

1) Word of Wisdom
2) Word of Knowledge
3) Faith
4) Gifts of Healing
5) Working of Miracles
6) Prophecy
7) Discerning of Spirits
8) Divers (or different) kinds of Tongues
9) Interpretation of (different) Tongues

This is not an exhaustive list of the gifts of the spirit, for example some are said to have the gift of mercy which is a person who is quick to forgive and not judge others who have sinned while others are not so quick to do so. God gives these gifts as He sees best and not what we think they are for (v 11). We can not receive gifts we are not intended to receive but we can desire certain gifts, indicating that we can receive gifts of the Spirit that may fulfill the desires of our hearts while still fulfilling God's purpose for them (v 31). Let's examine what these gifts are and what is their intended use is for in the church today.

Romans chapter twelve has a similar listing of the gifts of the Spirit but I Corinthians chapter twelve is more comprehensive in nature. I Corinthians chapter twelve begin with Paul telling the Corinthian church, and for the most part, all believers in the church today. Paul wants to make these gifts crystal clear to us and so we will depend upon the inspired Word of God to reveal them to us (v 1).

Paul tells us that "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them" (v 4). No two gifts are the same and generally no two believers have exactly the same gifts but always these gifts are given for the common good of the church (v 7).

The Gift of Wisdom

The first gift Paul mentions is the gift of wisdom (v 8). It is listed first perhaps because it is foundational to the church and this is a gift that the believer can earnestly desire (v 31). Wisdom is clearly taught in the Word of God and "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding" (Psalm 11:10). This is the precious gift that Solomon asked for and received from God to be able to rightly rule God's nation (I Kings 3:12). With this wisdom, Solomon could understand what do in difficult decisions. Wisdom is also associated with fearing the Lord. Fear is simply standing in awe of God in reverence and respect. It entails loving His Word and being obedient to what it says. There is no wisdom in disobedience. This means that if some members are revering God's laws and statutes, including loving God and loving your neighbor, that many members in the church can have this gift. Of course, many can not have it either. This gift is of supreme importance for members in the Body of Christ for if we can love God and our neighbor, we can greatly contribute to the church and those outside of the church. This love is another way of showing unbelievers and attracting them to Christ by it (John 13:35).

The Gift of Knowledge

The next gift of the Spirit is that of knowledge (v 8). Some people have such a gift of remembering scriptures. They have knowledge of God and His ways. They seem to be able to quickly distinguish which is biblical and which is not. Some translations say it is the "Word" of knowledge while others say that it is the "utterance" of knowledge. The Word is most certainly the Word of God. The "utterance" of knowledge could indicate that those with the gift of knowledge know when to speak particular words, when not to, and what words to speak with. Both words seem to fulfill what true knowledge is. These with this gift make excellent teachers, deacons, elders, or pastors.

The Gift of Faith

The next gift of the Spirit Paul mentions is the gift of faith (v 9). Those with this gift are truly amazing in how they see things. They tend to exude confidence in all situations. For example, our church deacon has said about our church growth "when" it grows we will need more Sunday school books, while others say "if" we grow we will need additional books. I met an evangelist once that spoke about things as if they already had existed or had come to pass. He spoke about finances that God would provide while simultaneously have nothing to show for it in the church's bank account. He would always later prove to be right. This is a person more like God. He sees things that aren't as if they already are!

The Gift of Healing

The gift of healing has been a controversial one (v 9). Some "faith healers" claim to have this gift yet have often been exposed to be frauds by undercover reporters. Many of those "healed" have been interviewed prior to their supposed healing. Some tap the power of positive thinking to convince them

that they are healed. Others have even used “scam artists” or actors to portray someone that has been healed from an infirmity that they never actually had. This gift was more prominent in the New Testament church to confirm that Jesus Christ’s name had power and that God was working in the church. I am not saying that people are still not healed today but the days of having someone’s shadow passing over them and they are instantly healed is over. The gift of healing may be in relations to the power of prayer and we know that the effectual prayer of a righteous man or woman can accomplish miracles (James 5:16). In any event, we must attribute any healing that is done is “…by that one Spirit“ and not by humans (v 9).

The Gift of Miracles

The gift of “miraculous powers“ is another gift of the Spirit that appears to be unique to the New Testament church (10). This may also be associated with faith healers who claim that that have the gift of miraculous powers but they must remember that any gift or its results are always credited to the spirit and not to humans. It could also be attributed to those who are prayer warriors. There is an elderly lady that I know I want her praying for me. I have had some pretty interesting results when this lady has prayed for me. I would call some of the things that have happened miraculous in some ways. The greatest miracles that occur today are, for the most part, the miracle of human conversion. I see this as the greatest miracle of all since only the Spirit of God can illuminate the Word of God and reveal to us Who Jesus Christ is (John 6:44, Matt 16:17).

The Gift of Prophecy (Speaking)

The next gift is that of prophecy (v 10). Prophecy has several different interpretations and it is clear that in this context, within the church at Corinth, prophecy is the gift of teaching and/or speaking. The literal translation here is that it is “publicly speaking” or “speaking forth” the Word of God. This gift is associated with those who are teachers or pastors since God would not gift someone in the church to teach or preach without having an ability to do so. It is not inferring that they know the future or know what is to come since only a sovereign God alone knows the future.

The Gift of Discernment

The gift of “distinguishing between spirits” is having the gift of discernment. It is able to discern scriptures and their application to believers in the church. It is also being able to tell whether someone is earnest and sincere, or they appear to have an agenda. Peter displayed this in Acts chapter five when Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property and kept back part of the money and brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet but lied saying they had given it all to the church (Acts 5:1-10). Those with this gift of discernment or “distinguishing between spirits” may be able to know whether the church should or should not do particular things.

The Gift of Tongues

The next gift is the ability to speak in different tongues (v 10). This has been one of the most controversial and most misunderstood gifts of all. When the original outpouring of the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, there were many speaking in tongues. Paul wrote about tongues extensively in 1 Corinthians, chapters twelve through fourteen, but he was reproving the Corinthians for misusing the gift. It’s very difficult out of this passage to get any kind of mandate to speak in tongues, to get any kind of affirmation that this is something to be sought, because what you have here are primarily corrective orders given to the Corinthians. They had actually prostituted the gift of tongues into something pagan that wasn’t even representative of the work of the Spirit. All you need to do is to go back to Acts 2 and read verse 4, “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with

other languages". The literal translation in Greek is "glossa" and means tongues. This same word "glossa" (language) is used again in Acts 2:11. This means it is a known language not some unknown tongue. Then it says (in Acts 2:5-11) that there were unbelievers present at Pentecost and were hearing God's message in their own "dialektos" dialects or language: "Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues" (dialektos or dialects)! So there were unbelievers present at Pentecost hearing God's message in their own languages and their own local dialects, not ecstatic gibberish.

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

The next gift Paul mentions is the gift of interpretation of tongues (v 10). This gift is someone who is able to interpret another tongue or language. I am bilingual and can speak English and Spanish but I would not say that I have this gift necessarily. Some have a natural gift or ability to learn a foreign language. It was not natural nor did it come easy for me. For those who this is easy, then they may be imbued with such a gift. If anyone was speaking in tongues in the church, there absolutely had to be someone there to interpret or they were to be silent. And no more than one person was to speak in tongues because there is only one interpreter available to translate at a time. If several were speaking in tongues at the same time, there would be confusion and God is not the author of confusion, but He is the God of order (1 Cor 14:33). It would not be edifying the church to have several speaking in tongues at the same time and with no one to interpret. Tongues are a sign for unbelievers and not for the church. Paul writes, "In the Law it is written: 'With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.' Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers" (1 Cor. 14: 21-22). Isaiah 28:11-12 is where Paul quotes Isaiah the prophet, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, 'This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.'" This clearly indicates that the gift of tongues (Greek for languages) and the interpretation of them is that of a known language as a witness to unbelievers.

Paul wants to make clear that we should not elevate one gift over another but esteem each and necessary for the completeness of the Body of Christ as Paul says in I Corinthians 12:12-23, "Now if the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.
The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor."

Other Gifts of the Spirit

Romans 12:7-8 also speaks of additional gifts; "if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." This shows that some are gifted at teaching, some

at showing mercy, some in giving to the work of the Lord, and some who show an unusual amount of forgiveness (called mercy).

Ephesians 4:11 reveals yet more gifts as Paul indicates there are, "…apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers." Again teachers are mentioned, evangelists are those who are unusually gifted at sharing the gospel with the lost, pastors and prophets (again, this is those who proclaim the gospel). Apostles can no longer exist because by definition, they would be those church leaders who have been commissioned by the risen Christ and having been done so in His presence. Those who call themselves apostles have no such authority given by God and they are self-designated only, thusly disqualifying themselves as a true apostle.

Many Gifts, Many Members, One Body

Each and every church member is clearly a part of "… the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles (no longer in this church age), second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts"(I Cor. 12:28-31). I pray you not only seek and discover your gifts but that you utilize them to the strengthening of the Body of Christ, for which you are a part. If you are not, then today is the time to become part of Christ's church because members of this body will live on into eternity.

Read more: http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-are-gifts-of-the-spirit-a-bible-study/#ixzz2YevR9iD2

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Winfield Bevins » God Systematic Theology Holy Spirit

The Sovereign Spirit: Click | View Series

"The Christian life, the fruit of the Spirit, is a constant reckoning of the flesh as dead and a constant relying on the present Spirit of Christ to produce love, joy, and peace within." – John Piper

NINE VIRTUES

In Galatians, Paul gives a list of nine virtues called the fruit of the Spirit. They are nine qualities, where the Holy Spirit endows the church. They are the hallmark of a Spirit-filled life. Paul employs fruit of the Spirit to show the difference between a person who is under the flesh and a person who is walking by the Spirit. J. I. Packer reminds us that, "Holiness is the fruit of the Spirit, displayed as the Christian walks by the Spirit (Gal 5:16, 22, 25). Therefore, the fruit of the Spirit is in stark contrast to the 'works of the flesh.'" As a farmer prepares for a harvest of fruit, the Lord cultivates the fruit of the Spirit in the life of believers. As you read through the following list of Spiritual fruits ask the Holy Spirit to develop fruit in your life.

1. LOVE

The first and most important fruit of the Spirit is love. Love is the virtue of brotherly and sacrificial love. It is a love that seeks the good of others. Paul's order of placement, as well as his other use of the word tells us that it is the greatest of the fruits. (1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:2; Col. 3:14). Other New Testament writers such as John and Peter emphasize love as one of the greatest features of the kingdom of God. Love is a spiritual anchor of truth in relationship with God and neighbor. This love is a distinctly Christian love, which finds its source from God alone. Because of this kind of love God sent his only Son to die for us. The Holy Spirit is hard at work to reproduce this kind of love in each one of us. We are to show this kind of selfless love to one another and to the world.

2. JOY

The second fruit of the Spirit is joy. The word joy appears 60 times in the New Testament. Joy corresponds to happiness, but it is independent of outward circumstances and is to be

found within every believer's life. Joy is a deep gladness that comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As Christians everything that we do should be done with joy in our hearts. The Bible tells us that we are to serve the Lord with joy and gladness. God desires for his children to know the joy of the Lord. The Bible says that the joy of the Lord is our strength. Let the Holy Spirit fill you with joy today as you serve him.

3. PEACE

Peace is the third fruit of the Spirit. Peace refers to a tranquility of mind, body, and soul. It is a spiritual well being that only God can give a person. Nations might be able to produce a world of peace, but God is the only one who can offer total peace. Jesus said the peace I give is not as the peace that the world may give. God's peace will never pass away. In fact Paul calls it the peace, which surpasses all understanding. This doesn't mean that you will never have another problem, but that God will give you peace in the midst of the storm. Let the peace of God fill your heart and soul through the power of the Spirit.

4. LONG-SUFFERING

Long suffering is the fourth fruit of the Spirit. The Greek word is commonly translated as patience, but should really be translated "long-suffering." Christians should be able to hold strong in the midst of trials and difficulty. We need to be steadfast and endure. This means the quality of putting up with others, waiting through the difficult times, even when we are severely tried, confused, or weak. It is like being a spiritual rubber band. When we are being stretched we will not break if we have long suffering. The Holy Spirit will supernaturally give you patience to hold on under difficult situations and circumstances.

5. KINDNESS

The fifth fruit of the Spirit is sympathetic kindness. It is God's virtuous gift to be able to respond to the special needs of others who are hurting or in need. It is a quality of God's kindness that is found in the New Testament only in Paul's correspondence. Those who have experienced the kindness of God's salvation in Christ are to clothe themselves with the same kindness. In a world full of anger, selfishness, and contention, the Lord wants us to cultivate the fruit of kindness in our lives. Let the Lord use you to show kindness to others.

6. GOODNESS

The sixth fruit of the Spirit is goodness. Goodness is the generosity that overflows from kindness. Although goodness and kindness are similar, goodness is a more active term, which is often directed toward others in a benevolent way. It is the action of helping

others in need. We are to take action and become agents of God's goodness in the world. When we see a need we must meet it. When we see a hurt we must heal it. The virtue of goodness reminds us that we become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit desires to use us as vehicles through which the goodness of God may flow.

7. FAITHFULNESS

This is one of the most common words in the New Testament. It is used in a variety of ways to mean faith, but considering the ethical context of Galatians the word is accurately translated faithfulness. It refers to being a person that others can rely upon. You cannot have faith in God without being faithful. The two are one and the same. The Spirit of the Lord wants to make us responsible persons in every area of our lives. Can God trust you to be faithful?

8. GENTLENESS

The eighth fruit of the Spirit is gentleness. It literally means to be mild or tame. The word is often used to refer to an animal, such as a bridled horse. In the personal sense it refers more to controlled strength than it does weakness. It is closely associated to humility. It is the virtue that is needed when confronted by opposition. Peter tells us that gentleness is necessary to be a Christian witness (1 Peter 3:15-16). Without gentleness we cannot be a true Christian witness.

9. SELF-CONTROL

The final ethical virtue of the Spirit is self-control or temperance. It is victory of the desires of the flesh. It is the virtue of a person who masters their passions and desires. It is opposite to the desires of the flesh. It means victory over the flesh. Self control is closely associated to purity of mind, heart, and conduct. It is the ability to crucify the flesh and walk in the Spirit. It is relying on the power of the Spirit to overcome the desires of the flesh. We need more self-control in our daily lives. *To be continued. From the new free ebook by Winfield Bevins.*